

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 9 and 11 – 28 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 16 have been amended, by adopting the Examiner's suggestions, to place all of the pending claims in condition for allowance. No new matter has been added. The amended claims present no new issues and no new search is required.

The Final Office Action mailed on October 20, 2006 indicated that claims 1 – 9 and 11 – 23 were allowed, but that claims 24 – 29 were rejected. Additionally the Office Action included an objection to the drawings.

In the Response filed on December 22, 2006, Applicants amended claims 24 – 26 (also affecting claims 27 and 28, which depend from claim 26) and deleted claim 29, obviating the objections to the drawings and the rejections of claims 24 – 29.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requested allowance of the application, including claims 1 – 9 and 11 – 28.

On January 11, 2007, the Examiner telephoned Applicants' attorney to express reservations regarding allowance of the claims. On January 18, 2007, in a telephone interview between Applicants' attorney and the Examiner, the Examiner indicated that claims 1 and 16 (the independent claims) "may read on an underwater type ROV or submarine." The Examiner suggested that if claims 1 and 16 were amended in one of two ways, then all of the pending claims 1 – 9 and 11 – 28 would be allowable. In particular, the Examiner suggested that "in claims 1 and 16, the at least one member be further defined as being adapted to remove or anchor the underwater equipment to the seabed or riverbed." Examiner-Initiated Interview Summary mailed on January 23, 2007.

Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 1 and 16 to include the limitation suggested. In particular, claim 1 has been amended to recite "at least one member for generating positive or negative lift and adapted to remove or anchor the underwater equipment to a seabed or a riverbed" and claim 16 has been amended to recite "at least one member for generating positive or negative lift and adapted to remove or anchor the underwater equipment to a seabed or a riverbed."

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments to place the application in condition for allowance. "Any amendment that will place the application . . . in condition for allowance . . . may be entered." MPEP 714.12. "An amendment touching the

merits of the application . . . may be admitted upon a showing of good and sufficient reason why the amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented,” 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b), except that “where an amendment merely . . . adopts examiner suggestions,” MPEP 714.13(II), no showing is required. Therefore, without addressing whether Applicants can make such a showing of good and sufficient reason, Applicants respectfully submit that such a showing is not required because the amendments merely adopt the Examiner’s suggestions, verbatim.

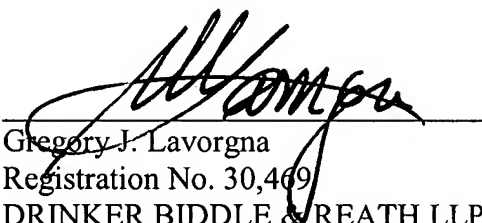
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the foregoing amendments should be entered to place all pending claims in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims 1 – 9 and 11 – 28, as amended herein, are in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request that allowance be granted at the earliest date possible. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding Applicants amendments or remarks, the Examiner is asked to contact Applicants undersigned representative at (215) 988-3309.

Respectfully submitted,

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